



Christ United Methodist Church - Amherst, NY

"Making Connections & Offering Opportunities for Faith, Love & Service"

Weekly Update – October 9



Hammer

My daughter has a fish named E.J., after the captain of the Titanic. In his little aquarium, we have always had this accessory shaped like a submarine, providing something for the fish to swim to hide in. While away recently, I received a desperate call. It seems Captain E.J. had run himself aground in one of the portholes of the little submarine. Through his struggles to free himself, he managed only to get himself wedged permanently in. It required removal of the submarine and employment of a hammer to free E.J. The poor fish has unsightly gashes from where he was wedged and endured the trauma of removal from water and exorcism by hammer.



Often things in our life are just like that little submarine. They decorate our surroundings, or are habits that give us a place to escape, to hide. But we find, if we are not careful, that these same things can end up trapping us, wedging us into a life and reality which we are not sure is possible to escape from. The forgiveness offered in Jesus Christ is the hammer that frees us. We carry the scars of our past, walking with a limp like Jacob. Nonetheless, we have been broken free from what seemed impossible to escape by the grace of Jesus Christ. Thanks be to God!

-Pastor Daven

Ways to Make a Difference

Food & Supplies Needed for Local Families

In addition to the food that goes to local food pantries, Christ Church serves local families in need. The following items are needed: **cleaning supplies, paper towels, toilet paper, personal hygiene products, deodorant, and soap.**

The Tiger's Den is collecting **boxed stuffing mix, boxed mashed potatoes, and canned yams/sweet potatoes** during October. They also request **paper bags** and **reusable shopping bags (NOT plastic bags)** to pack groceries.

Collecting carts at Christ Church are marked for Tiger's Den Food Pantry and for local families.

Cards for Caring

Have you seen the cards in the Cafe? They're free! Send a card, send a smile to a friend or neighbor who can't make it to church. Spread some joy and sunshine!

Coat Drive

Coats and winter garments are being collected in Crafts Hall through the month of October. Clean coats with working buttons and zippers, scarves, hats, mittens, and boots are all welcome and will be given to Clara's Closet, Hearts for the Homeless, and Central City Café.

This Week at Christ Church

Church Office Hours:

Mon., Wed., Fri. – 9 am to 5 pm, Thurs. – 9am to Noon

Wednesday, October 9

- **7:30**pm - Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, October 10

- 1pm - 'Thirstaid' Thursday

Friday, October 11

- 9:30am - Library Team
- *Women's Weekend in Chautauqua (Oct. 11-13)*

Sunday, October 13

- **10am - Worship Service**

Guest Preacher: Dr. David Pliss

- 11am - a.o.l. (Adult Opportunities for Learning)
- 11am - **FaithXpress**
- *Caller Deadline for November Newsletter*

Supervised Child Care, Sky Box and Family Worship Space available

*Visit the **Café Connection** each Sunday morning and enjoy delicious, fair trade, **New Day Coffee**, morning treats and friendly conversation.*

Monday, October 14

- **Office Closed**

Daily Bible Reading – 2019 Shaping Our Life Experience

Excerpts from both the Old and New Testament are included each day. This is a great way to support your ongoing growth in faith and the Christ Church community as well.

October 9: Isaiah 41-42; Colossians 1

October 10: Isaiah 43-44; Colossians 2

October 11: Isaiah 45-47; Colossians 3

October 12: Isaiah 48-49; Colossians 4

October 13: Isaiah 50-52; 1 Thessalonians 1

October 14: Isaiah 53-55; 1 Thessalonians 2

October 15: Isaiah 56-58; 1 Thessalonians 3

Joys

We celebrate with Laura Hagley (daughter of Tom & Peg Nye) who won the Wineglass Marathon in Corning over the weekend. She qualified for the US Olympic Trials in February 2020!

In Our Healing Prayers

Bruce Burr, Barbara Weaver, Jan Rhinehart, Dave Mitchell, Karen Phillips, Pat Zaleski, Joe & Carolyn Day, Michael Farley, Dick Radel, Bob Varian, Inez Beachley, John Ladowski, Chrissy Merrill, Joyce Moser, Janet Hill, Sissie Mooney, Mary Jane Shanley, Sue Estee, Frank Annunziata, Jean Ericson, Kevin Cetola

*Those who are **care partners** with others

*Pray for Chris Maliken, Lindsey Darling & Ian Johnson, serving in the US Navy

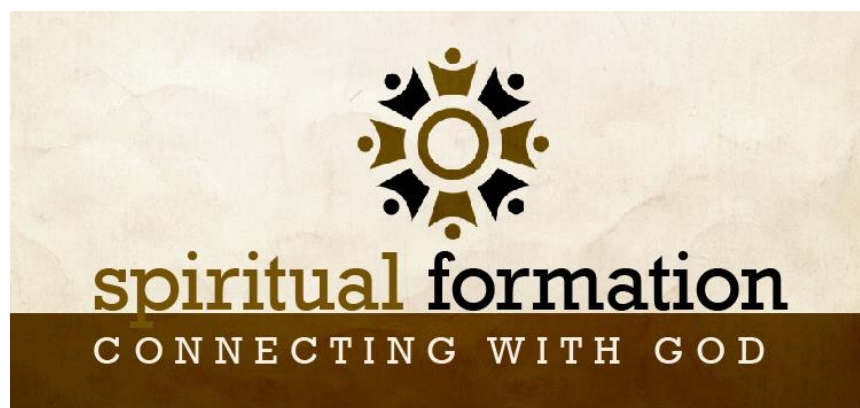
Applesauce for Sale!

The Community Youth Group (CYG) will be selling homemade applesauce after church on **October 13 & 20** (or until sold out!) for \$5 per quart bag. The ingredients are apples, sugar, cinnamon and clove.

The CYG had a great time last Sunday picking apples to make applesauce! Sales will support our Community Youth Group.

Next activity: pumpkin picking at Akron Acres on **Sunday, October 20 at 11 a.m.**





A.O.L. (Adult Opportunities for Learning)

Sundays Following Worship

Through October 27

Join as we read through the book, Making Sense of the Bible. Author Adam Hamilton invites us into an honest conversation about the Bible, addressing often misunderstood

Biblical themes such as:

- How and when was the Bible written?
- Who decided which books made it into the scriptures and why?
 - Were Adam and Eve real people?
 - Why is God so violent in the Old Testament?
- Why would Paul command women to "keep silent in the church"?
 - Is the Book of Revelation a guide to the End Times?

All are welcome!

Searching the Scriptures

Tuesdays at Noon

Each Tuesday Pastor Daven leads a time exploring the upcoming Sunday's Scripture.

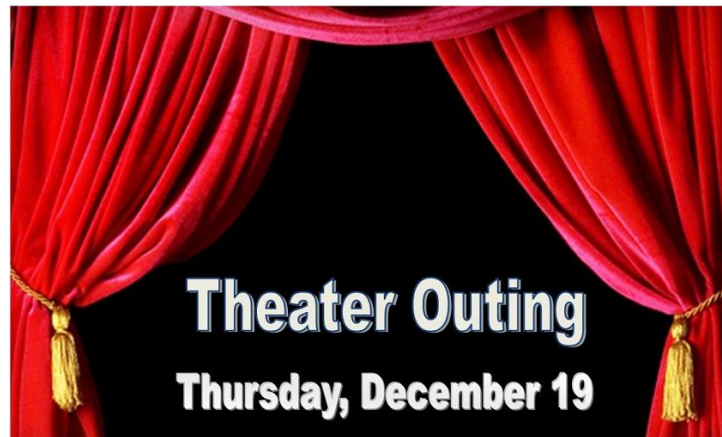
This will provide context to the Scripture(s) being explored and ultimately enrich the experience of worship itself. All are welcome anytime!

Thirstaid Thursdays

Thursdays from 1-2:30 p.m.

Through October 17

All are invited to participate in discussion about prayer each Thursday afternoon in the Wesley Room. How should I pray? Does prayer make a difference? Are there different kinds of prayer? What can I do to improve my prayer life? Come quench your thirst for a vibrant prayer life!



The Men's Group is planning an outing to Shea's 710 Theatre (710 Main Street, Buffalo) on **Thursday, December 19** to see the play, "Christmas Over the Tavern".

We will meet at the Bijou Grill, across from Shea's main theatre at **5:30pm** for a casual dinner before walking to Shea's 710 Theatre, for the **7:30pm performance**. Parking is available near the Theatre (between Pearl and Main St.) or at the M&T Lot on Washington. Directions will be provided. ***This event is open to everyone.*** Tickets are \$40.50 per person and **must be paid in advance by October 25th**. Please let Ed Gilbert (716-835-4976) or Tom Nye (716-213-3642) know if you would like to attend.

Play Synopsis: The Pazinskis, four kids and two parents living over a saloon in 1959 Buffalo, are not having their usual merry Christmas. Dad is going through a mid-life depression and refuses to buy a Christmas tree. Sister Clarissa is threatening to expel 12-year-old Rudy for performing a blasphemous one-man Nativity Scene where he plays all the characters as Hollywood celebrities. With comic songs and dream sequences, they fight through depression and discord to come to a deeper understanding of what it means to be a family on this most stressful of holidays.